

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL
CENTER FOR LOWELL HISTORY
ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

SHIFTING GEARS PROJECT
LAWRENCE

INFORMANT: JULIA (DUBLIN) GARBELNICK

INTERVIEWER: YILDEREY ERDENER

DATE: OCTOBER 25, 1988

Y = YILDEREY

J = JULIA

SG-LA-T535

Y: Okay. Should we start? [Unclear] So uh, what is your name?

J: Julia Dublin Garbelnick.

Y: Garbelnick. Dublin is your maiden name?

J: No Dublin is my maiden name?

Y: Maiden name, umhm. Umhm. And would you tell me about your grandparents?

J: My grandparents came from Lithuania. Kovna, Lithuania.

Y: What was the name?

J: Kovna.

Y: K O V ?

J: N A, yeah.

Y: N A, umhm.

J: And I think that the families were there for many generations.

Y: Uh huh.

J: My grandfather had a big tailoring shop, establishment, and he used to make the uniforms (--)

Kovna was a fortress city, they had a fort there. And he used to make some, the uniforms for the officers in the fort. And uh, my family would have stayed there indefinitely, but when my father and mother got married, my father said he's not going to remain in Lithuania, because being Jewish he could not go to school. He could not have an education, and that bothered him. And he said that if he got married and he had children, he would not want to live anywhere unless they could have an education. So he and my mother on their wedding night escaped over the border and they went to Amsterdam. And from there they went to England. My mother and father, my mother had very fine relatives out there. She had never met them, or anything, but my grandfather gave her letter and he told her to give it to them. And they just rang the doorbell and they walked in, and they were welcomed with open arms.

Y: Which city was it? (J: what?) Which city in England?
(J: London) London. (J: Yup) Umhm.

J: And my mother and father remained there for about four or five years. My father, he had a, my uncle had a tailoring establishment also. So my father went to work for him. And my mother, they, but they got an apartment. And they, and they, and then they had two children while they were there. Then my father never liked London. He couldn't stand the crowds, he couldn't stand the mobs, and he couldn't stand the foggy weather there that they had there. And so when he, he got a letter from his brother saying that they, they came to the United States. My father wrote him back and sent him money and told him to send tickets out, that we were going too. Well my mother got the tickets, she did not want to go. She loved England, she loved her family. So she hid the tickets. And two days before they expired my father found them and bingo, he gave her an ultimatum. Pat can come, or I'm leaving her here. So she took a few belongings. In two days she had to pack up and get rid of things, and everything. and the two children, I was two years old, my brother was three months old, and we came over here into this country. And uh, my uncle, we stayed with my uncle for about a week or so. My father went to work the next day. No welfare for my father. He would have died first. No, not the way they're chiseling today.

Y: So you directly came to Lawrence?

J: I came to Lawrence, yeah.

Y: And you were two years old?

J: I was two years old.

Y: You were born in England?

J: England, London, England.

Y: Now what year was that you were born?

J: In 1900.

Y: You birth is 1900, or?

J: What?

Y: When did, were you born?

J: 19, 1898.

Y: 1898.

J: We came here in 1900. That was the celebration of the uh, hundredth uh, 1900, yeah, was a celebration in England. And my baby, my brother was only three months old. And so my father [unclear], they came here and they got established. And my father went to work. And in no time at all he had his own store. And uh, (--)

Y: Where did he learn to be a tailor?

J: Oh, he, from my grandfather. He was going with my mother. He was an orphan. He was, it was, my father's father died when he was only about four or five years old. And his mother was only a young girl. There was three children. And she ran off and married somebody else. And, and the grandparents were left to bring up the children, see? And so uh, uh, there was an uncle and aunt that wanted, that was coming to this country, they wanted to take them. And it's too bad they didn't, because their son was one of the most famous men in this country. His name was Louis I. Dublin. And they wanted him to come, but his grandparents would let him. So he stayed there. And uh, and this is what he did. He came here and he went to work, and he got an apartment. And it was a struggle. Things weren't easy in those days. I don't remember what they had for lights, but because I think they started with candle, the light, and then lamp light, but I remember gas jets. Yeah, and uh, and that's the way it was.

Y: Where did you settle down in Lawrence first, do you remember? You were a little baby.

J: Oh yes. I don't remember where I settled, because I was only two years old when I got here. But I do remember when I got to Cross Street, we moved from there. It was, it was, I don't know what the name of that section is now. I think it was Merrimack Park. Is it? It used to be called Berman, Berman Park. Berman uh, Berman Court it used to be called.

Y: Berman Court.

J: Berman Court, yeah. And then it's changed around and I don't know what it is. I think there's, I don't know what kind of an element lives there now. I have no idea, but we moved to Cross Street. And I went to the Washington Street School. And then from Cross Street we moved to uh, (Y: Hampshire) Hampshire Street. (Y: Umhm) And then I went to the Oliver, Oliver School. And then my father, then we moved to Park Street. (Y: Yeah) And I went to the Tawbuck School. And then my father bought a house on Columbia, on Bunker Hill Street. And that will be in there [unclear], on Bunker Hill Street. And of course we, we moved there and I stayed there until uh, until I got married. My father bought a house on uh, Nesmith Street

afterwards. And we moved to Nesmith Street and then I got married and came to Haverhill.

Y: When did you get married?

H: 1919.

Y: 1919? (J: Yeah) And your husband was a Jew also?

J: Oh sure. Yeah.

Y: His name was uh (--)

J: Moses Garbelnick. (Y: Moses) Yeah, they were, they were shoe manufacturers out here. (Y: Yeah) He was one of the first shoe manufacturers in the city.

Y: Yeah. And where was your father's first store? Although you were two years old, [voice becomes muffled, cannot transcribe rest of comment].

J: I don't know. I don't remember about his first store. The only one I remember is the one on Hampshire Street. It was opposite from the convent and Saint Mary's Church. And on the other side they had [Breens?] Funeral Parlor there. And, and my father used to make clothes for them. In those days they didn't have stores that you could go in and buy clothes. They had to be made. In my father used to keep a dress maker in the, in the store so she could sew for women and children. You know, like that. And uh, and uh, that's the way it was.

Y: When did your aunts come here?

J: Oh my father, the minute he got to this country, and he started earning some money, the first thing they did every week is put money away to bring the family over. So one by one they brought them over, but I mean in the beginning. First my aunt came over.

Y: Your father's sister?

J: My (--) No, no. My father didn't bring any of his family over here. He, he was very close to my mother's family. And he worked for my grandfather, you know. So first he brought over my aunt. Uh, and then we brought over an uncle, an uncle. And after she came she went to work for my father, and the both of them would save money to bring, keep bringing over the rest of the family. Then my uncle came over and he started working for my father. So the three of them were, you know, putting away money. And they were bringing them over. And then towards the end they brought over my mother's, two of my mother's sisters. And one of them couldn't get in because she had the beginning of a cataract. She was a beautiful young girl. They would let her in. Look at what they let in now. Uh, so my mother sent her to England, otherwise she was going to stay, she was going to jump off the ship, she wasn't going to go back there. So my mother sent her to England. And then the end of it, see my, my first grandmother, the one that I, died. And my grandfather remarried and he had three children after that. So the whole family was all here and they all were pooling their money. And they brought the whole of them over

here, see.

Y: Yeah, I see. (J: Yeah) And in 1912 uh, (J: 1912) you were (--)

J: In the eighth grade.

Y: Thirteen, fourteen years old.

J: I was thirteen years old when I went into the eighth grade. And after I graduated I turned fourteen.

Y: Which school were you attending?

J: Tawbucks.

Y: Tawbucks?

J: Tawbucks.

Y: It was eighth grade you said?

J: Yeah, seventh and eighth grade. We moved to Nesmith Street, we moved to Bunker Hill Street when I was, when I, in the seventh grade, I went into the seventh grade there. And so that's all. I was only there for two years.

Y: So while, during the strike you were living in Bunker Hill Street?

J: Hill Street, yes.

Y: And uh, (--)

J: And my two aunts that came from, that were brought over from Russia were working in the Arlington Mills. That was in that locality, see? And I used to bring them their dinner pails. (Y: Yeah) That's what they called it in those days.

Y: Dinner pails.

J: Dinner pails. Yeah, everyone had a pail and my mother would (--) At noontime, in those days they had dinner at noontime. So my mother always had soup, and she always had chicken or meat, or something like that. And she'd send them their dinners. I would bring it to them and I'd come home. And in fact we were allowed an hour and a half for (--) In my day when we went to school, grammar school was two, two sessions. (Y: Yeah) Morning and afternoon, and we were allowed an hour and a half for lunch, because half of the children were bringing dinners dinners to their people that were working in the mills.

Y: Umhm.

J: So I did that only for one year, because the next year I went to high school, so I couldn't do it.

Y: Yeah, and did they participate, your aunts?

J: Did they what?

Y: Did they participate during the strike? Were they marching and doing um, (--)

J: I uh, I don't seem to remember much about that, (Y: umhm) because I know I was delivering dinner pails there. And I knew that the whole city was on strike, but I don't seem to remember that period. Well it wouldn't have made any difference, because in our family we didn't let anyone starve. (Y: Right) See. My mother and father were very good people.

Y: Yeah. And as a little young girl, how interested in the strike? How did you notice, I mean how did you feel (--)

J: Well I was already in the eighth, seventh and eighth, in the eighth grade when this happened. So I was, I was thirteen years old. But I was always interested in what went on in the country, and what went on in the world. And I used to read a lot and I used to like to listen. And uh, so when this came up (Y: umhm) I, I happened to, I happened to be going to the synagogue and they were there for a rally. And I got interested. I was spellbound. I mean I was, I never realized what was going on. Oh yes I knew they had the strike then. My aunts probably weren't working then, because the whole city was striking. And so I used to attend those meetings. And uh, (--)

Y: Which synagogue was this?

J: I don't, I don't remember the name of it, but it was, there were two. One was on one side, one was on the other. And there's even racism in your own religion. The Jews that came from Lithuania were on this side, and the Jews who came from Russia, or Poland, or anything was on the other side. My father, they felt they were in a better class, you know what I mean?

Y: Which state you said, it was the (--)

J: Concord. It was Concord Street.

Y: Concord State?

J: Yeah. It was, going up Concord Street from Essex Street, it was on the left hand side. (Y: yeah) And uh, and on this side. And uh, and then across the street was the other Synagogue.

Y: Uh huh. (J: Yeah) And you noticed that uh, strikers were getting together there in that Synagogue?

J: The, yeah, the strikers were there. And there was, you know, a lot of the people. And there

was a young man, he died about three years ago I think. He was brilliant and he was handsome. He was a young man. And he was, he was fighting for them to you know, to go on strike and get more money. Because families, families were living two and three families in one, in one tenement. They used to call them tenements in those days, not apartments. Were tenements.

Y: Can you recognize the young man if I show you a picture?

J: I don't know whether I would or not.

Y: Could you recognize him? Is he there?

J: Well he was much younger than this, these pictures.

Y: What about this here?

J: He was much younger than this too.

Y: Younger?

J: Younger. He was very young. I don't think he was more than, well if I was thirteen he must have been nineteen or twenty.

Y: Uh, do you recognize anything here?

J: He was a handsome boy. No, I don't think I could recognize him. (Y: You cannot?) His name was Joseph Etta. (Y: Etta?) Yeah.

Y: Was his name Etta?

J: Etta, yeah. Joseph Etta. He was a handsome young boy.

Y: Well that is him here.

J: That's him? (Y: Yeah) Well of course he's a grown man now here. Uh, 19, on January 13, 1912? Oh he was much younger looking than that. (Y: Yeah, it was uh) It says 1912, (Y: 1912, yeah) but he, this couldn't have been, [unclear] 1912, because he was a thin young boy.

Y: Yeah. But his name was Etta? Etta, that is what?

J: Well I recognize it, because I've seen it, and I saw it in the paper a few years ago when he died. I wanted to get in touch with his house, but I never did. I wanted to tell them that I knew the man when he was a young boy.

Y: So he was organizing the strike?

J: He was organizing it, and he was so uh, dedicated. And his whole heart and soul was in it. It

was amazing you know, to see a young fellow so interested and so dedicated. And I wish I had kept the article. They read, wrote a big article when he died. I had no one to be interested. My family are not interested in that. But uh, he did, and he got them all out. He got them all, finally got them all out on strike. And uh, that strike went on for nine weeks.

Y: What language did he speak?

J: What?

Y: What language did he (--)

J: English.

Y: English, because he could speak other languages.

J: Well evidently he could speak Italian, he was an Italian boy. (Y: Italian [unclear]) Yeah.

Y: But he spoke in the Synagogue (J: in english, yeah) in english.

J: All the kids over there were talking english. We were all talking english. (Y: Yeah) In fact my mother was the only one that used to talk to us in Yiddish, in giddish, and we'd answer her in english. And that's how she got to learn how to talk english.

Y: Oh I see, yeah.

J: Yeah, see. Yeah. We all talked english. [Unclear] the Spanish are coming in here, they want to take the country over.

Y: Yeah. So your father was not directly connected with the mills.

J: Oh no, no, not at all. He had a tailor shop.

Y: He has uh, a tailor shop.

J: He was a tailor, yeah. (Y: Right. And uh) He used to make, he used to make, sew, make clothes for the priest, some of the high school teachers. There were men there. And a lot of this, customers were from uh, [Breen's] Undertaking power. Yeah. (Y: Yeah) Yeah, but he had a nice following. Yes, he did.

Y: So in other words this strike did not affect him as much as the (--)

J: Oh yes it did.

Y: Yeah, tell me a little bit about how.

J: When you're not bringing in any money, and you're hungry, you don't have clothes made. (Y:

yeah) And my father was a tailor. If it wasn't for the priest and the school teachers, and Breen's customers there, I don't know how he would have gotten by. Uh, in fact it was very very rough at that time, very rough. It was a bad period. In fact my father had bought the house just two years ago. And one day during the strike he didn't come home. His mortgage was due and he didn't have any money. And, but he did, he used to come home at night, at six o'clock every night. And this night he didn't come home until 9:30. And I was sitting there shivering. I thought my father committed suicide. I was terrified. You had no idea what fear went on in that terrible strike. And my brothers, my brothers were working in bowling alleys, so they earned a little money. (Y: Umhm) And I was too young to work. And uh, (--)

Y: I have some pictures of the strike to show you.

J: I don't think I went down to see the mobs. You know, I was a little girl, I wouldn't have gone there.

Y: Yeah. Yeah. I just showing you so you um (--) Huh?

J: But this was, this was a very very tragic, unfortunate period. And but I feel this way. They came out of it not earning too much money. They got a very little, I don't think they got more than a dollar raise. You know, in those days a dollar was a lot of money. But I feel that the amount, that Lawrence, and Lawrence to me is my city, I don't care if I was born in England. England doesn't mean anything to me. The United States is my country. And I feel that Lawrence should get the recognition of, there was a lot of strikes before 1912, but Lawrence was the one that formed a union. And that is history. And I feel that Lawrence should get the recognition of being the first city in the United States to form a workers union. And they should get the credit of it, and it should be written down in history. Not Bread and Roses.

Y: Yeah. We were talking about that. Yeah, this was in January. And I saw this. In January 12, 1912. So it was snow and cold, and uh, they're out there.

J: Oh, and there was no steamed heat in those days either, you know. Nothing. No.

Y: And so how did people find the fuel or cold to keep warm?

J: It was (--) Well I didn't know the suffering like that, because I was [unclear] with my little people and all that. But I know now that the suffering must have been absolutely impossible, horrible, horrible. Not only that, they didn't have money for food. (Y: Yeah) Do you know my father was a tailor and he owned two houses. One in the back, it was a one family house, and two, and the one that we lived in was a two family house. Downstairs his sister, and my aunt and uncle lived there with two children. And in back was a sick woman and she had five children. I think she was a widow. And she took sick. She was not well. So, and my mother before the strike used to always send her in food. But after the strike they still do that. Because, so somebody said to me, I think Kathy [unclear], "how did your father do that without money?" I says, "because my father was a manipulater." My father would run up a grocery bill, he'd run up a butcher bill, he'd run up a um, um, um, what else? What else is there? Groceries and meat. (Y: Meat, yeah) Yeah, and things like that. And he ended up, and instead of paying them he'd

make them clothes. They'd pay them, you know, this is the way that he paid them back. This is the way that he bought a piano for me too. I think the man, the man had, took about seven years for that man to get enough clothes to have the piano paid for. When he needed a suit of clothes my father made it and took it off the bill. This is how he manipulated. You know, you have to use, you have to use, well you had to use something in order to be able to manage. And don't forget my father had six children and we all had very healthy appetites. (Y: Yeah) But thank god we were never hungry and we were never cold.

Y: So you had bread and you had other things because you father uh (--)

J: Because my father would, they would you know, we would (--) My father would charge it up. And then they needed, he would make it for them and take it off the bill. That's why.

Y: And you were talking about the mortgage and your father comes home uh (--)

J: Oh yeah. My father had [tape skips] (--)

[There is conversation talking place regarding the recording set up. Interview begins again where it left off]

Y: Now you were telling me about the mortgage, and your father did not come home uh (--)

J: Yeah, this is, this is wonderful. It really was a miracle. When I saw my father come in it was 9:30, because I was watching the clock. And uh, when he walked in I saw he was alive. I thought I was in heaven, you know? And I said, "Pa, what happened? Why are you so late?" And he said uh, he says, "well, he said, I have good new." And I said, "what is it?" He said, "do you remember there was a customer I had, he was a Colonel in the army?" And I said, "yeah." He said, "well he came in. And I was telling him how bad things are, and the strike, and I couldn't." And he used to have been one of his customers. "And I couldn't meet the mortgage, and I couldn't do this, and I was afraid I was going to lose the house and I didn't know what I was going to do." So he turned around and he said, my father's name was Sam, "Sam, don't worry, I'm going to loan you that money and don't worry about it. You can pay me whenever you have it." And he paid him the money for the mortgage. Yeah.

Y: And uh, how did the strike affect your brothers, sisters?

J: Oh they were all younger than me. They were children. I told you two of my brothers worked in the bowling alley at night. They worked in the bowling alley until one and two o'clock in the morning so that they could make enough money so that my mother could buy material to have me, have a dress for graduation.

Y: Umhm. Yeah. And uh (--)

J: And as I said, my father, food we always had and things, things that had to be, you know, we had to live on, we always had, because my father would pay it up by making them clothes.

Y: Yeah. And um, the neighborhood, you were in Bunker Hill at that time. (J: Bunker Hill, yeah) What kind of neighborhood was that?

J: It was a very nice neighborhood, there were nice people on it. There were Irish Catholic there, there were Germans. And uh, we were the only Jewish family on the street, but we, we got along beautifully with everybody.

Y: Yeah.

J: My mother, everybody loved my mother anyways. I mean she, she was that kind of a person. She loved people and they all loved her. So we really enjoyed living there. It was very nice. I didn't like the house. I hated my father because he bought the house. I didn't like the house.

Y: What was wrong with that?

J: Well I wanted something different, something more modern. And he didn't consult anybody, he went and bought it on his own.

Y: On this one, or it's the other one?

J: No, it's further down in the middle there somewhere. No, I didn't like it. But anyhow it didn't hurt me. I uh, I've been through high school there. I had a wonderful time. And I had, I made some marvelous friends in high school, were the happiest days of my life. And um, and at nineteen, let me see, twenty, I was twenty-one, twenty-one years old I got married to my husband out here. And my father had bought a house, we moved to a new neighborhood. We went up to Tyler Hill, (Y: yeah) on Nesmith Street, down near the bottom there.

Y: Umhm. I understand conditions, the conditions, the living conditions, like here. Look , there wasn't good, people could not pay the rents.

J: Uh, it, it was a very poor neighbor-- It was very poor in Lawrence. Lawrence was a very poor city, because it was a mill city. And mill city people earns very little money. And sometimes they -- And do you realize in Lawrence there was a lot of lot of people came there, because uh, but oh, they had three deckers all over the place. And, and sometimes there were two and three families living in one tenement. And that's how they got by. The bad spots in Lawrence at that time was uh, was Common Street, Valley Street, uh, uh, wait a minute. It was in through that neighborhood. It was that section down there. Near, near, near down there. But see we lived way up near the uh, on the way to Methuen, and it was a different element there. It was that much nicer, yeah.

Y: And uh, your aunt and your uncle and three kids, they moved into the basement in your house.

J: Oh no, they didn't move in the basement. She made a mistake. I said, they lived downstairs. (Y: Oh, I see) I meant downstairs, and we lived upstairs. Kathy [unclear] she put them in the basement. My father wouldn't put my aunt and my uncle in the basement with his children. That

was a mistake. That was a bad (--) You know, I made up my mind that if anyone ever publishes anything that I say again, I will not allow it to be published until I look at it, because I was just horrified when I read that. And she was a nice person. I really like her very much, but I didn't say they lived. They lived downstairs. Well downstairs (--) [Phone rings] Just ask who it is please and I'll call them back.

Background voice: Hello, who's calling. Phyllis?

J: Who?

Background voice: Phyllis.

J: Who?

Background voice: Can she call you back Phyllis? She's in an interview with some people right now.

J: Who did you say was calling?

Y: Phyllis.

J: Phyllis?

Y: Yeah.

J: She didn't say what Phyllis, did she? She must be the Phyllis here in the building.

Background voice: All right.

J: Did she tell you her last name?

Background voice: No.

J: I think she lives upstairs. She didn't say what she wanted, did she? Okay.

Y: Okay, uh, it was not correct information, but uh, (--)

J: No, my aunt and uncle lived downstairs, and my father and mother lived upstairs. Then we had attics upstairs, and [unclear].

Y: Right. But what about other people? Other poor people who could not pay the rent, obviously they (--)

J: They lived, but, but they couldn't pay rent. Nobody could pay rent. What are you going to do, put them out? They were poor people, they were suffering. In fact my mother, with all we went through [unclear] that strike, and my father wasn't doing very well then, my mother was

still helping them out with food. So that you know, so they (--) We were, my, they were that kind of people. You know what my father used to do when he finally got a nice big tailor shop? Some things that I was very proud of my father, because he, he was good-hearted. He had a terrible fear. He used to have a lot of, most of his customers were non-Jewish people, they were Gentile people. And me made a lot of good friends with them. Um, sometimes a man would come in and say, he um, he has to go to the poor house because he has no place to live, no place to sleep. You know what my father would do? Let him sleep on the benches until he got a job. And then my mother never knew who he was going to bring in for dinner. Never. Oh, I always, I always felt, you know, I grew older I realized what a wonderful that was for him to do.

Y: Well if you don't have anything to eat, you might stop eating one day or two, but if you are pregnant and the woman should deliver, and there's no one, there's no doctor, no health care, no insurance, what did they do?

J: You mean the other people?

Y: Yeah, the other people during the strike.

J: Well I don't know about the other people, because I was only a little girl. But I know as far as we're concerned in those days the doctors didn't, didn't ask for a lot of money either. The doctors, you would join an organization, a club, and the doctor would be connected with that club. And if he had to go to you, if he had to come, or you had to go to him, you'd give, you'd owe him a dollar and you'd pay the club a dollar. And they would, that's the way they managed that way.

Y: So if a woman had to deliver then the doctor (--)

J: That I don't know. I wouldn't understand the delivery. They delivered at home in those days.

Y: Oh yeah!

J: Sure. My mother had, my mother had her, I remember my two little sisters were born in the house. We didn't go in the hospital in those days. And you want to know (--)

tape one side one ends

tape one side two begins

J: ... Was not born and brought up in this country and couldn't read or write english, twice she delivered babies from people because in those days there was no telephone, in those days there was no automobiles. They were in a buggy. Then you couldn't reach the doctor, you couldn't get a hold of him. And she was there and my mother delivered twice, she delivered babies. I couldn't do it. [Unclear] makes you don't do things that you don't realize.

Y: Yeah. Yeah, and um, uh, we were talking about sixteen children sent to Washington. And I got uh, I got a picture of those children here.

J: Now I know that um, the only one that I really knew (--)

Y: This is a big, the same picture (--)

J: I know that Pearl Shinberg went.

Y: I was going to ask you about that. Did you see the note there? I put the note there, here.

J: Yeah. (Y: Pearl uh) Not Mrs., her name was, she was young, she was only a young girl.

Y: Pearl uh (--)

J: Pearl Shinberg.

Y: Shinburg. That's S I, S H (--)

J: S H I N B E R G. Her brother turned out to be a very fine doctor here in Haverhill. And her other brother was one of the biggest lawyers in Haverhill. But they're, one of, the lawyer is gone, he's dead. The other one who is married to my cousin, so that made me related to them. His wife died and he moved to Florida. So they're not here. And I was going to call, somebody asked me if I, that Cathy FLynn asked me if I would give, see if I could contact uh (--) (Y: Pearl?) I did. I called up. She still has a niece living here in Haverhill. And I called her up. And she says, she says, "Julie you're too late. She died a few months ago." So they're all gone now.

Y: So she was one of the sixteen children went to Washington?

J: Yes, yeah. Washington, yeah.

Y: But she's not here. You don't recognize her?

J: She uh, I think it might be her over here.

Y: Yeah. Might be, might not be. Who knows.

J: Well I, because I, I remember what she looked like, see. But she was, she was very thin. They were all like skeletons when they went.

Y: Yeah, how did you see them? Where did you see them?

J: I saw them at the Synagogue. They all got together there, before they went. They all gathered down there. And they, the one that was uh, directing them, you know, taking charge, he mentioned it and he talked to them. And he said, you know, well they were sending this

group to Washington so Washington will see how under nourished they were.

Y: Umhm. Yeah. And uh, also people talk about uh, children are sent, were sent to New York, Philadelphia. Did you hear about that? And 19, or 119 kids sent to New York in February.

J: In 1913? In 1912?

Y: In 1912. Yeah, February 10th. And uh, (--)

J: Well no matter. They couldn't, they probably couldn't stand the head and there was no food. That I don't remember.

Y: Yeah.

J: I didn't read newspaper. Listen, yes I did a lot of reading then, but I don't know if we got newspapers in those days. I don't know.

Y: Yeah. And they say that they were all suffering from (J: malnutrition) malnutrition then. (J: Yeah) So, but you do not have such problems, right? You did not [unclear]?

J: Oh, no, no, no, no. We, we were never hungry.

Y: Yeah. Yeah. And uh, what about uh, did you hear that a girl was killed in that strike?

J: Who?

Y: Someone was killed, hurt, during the strike.

J: I don't remember that.

Y: You don't.

J: No, no. I don't remember that.

Y: Yeah. Suppose a young woman, Amy Lopesa, or Lopeza, or P I Z Z A, I was(--)

J: There's no pizza in those days.

Y: No, her last name was Lopizza.

J: No, I wouldn't remember those people.

Y: Yeah. And you said uh, uh, they used to sing, but you said you cannot sing those songs anymore.

J: I can't sing anymore. No.

Y: But what kind of songs did they sing?

J: Well when I was in high school Irving Berlin was a big, Irving Berlin was tremendous, popular man. His music was beautiful. Victor Herbert was wonderful. Uh, there was some wonderful plays. The music in, the music in that era was the finest, which will someday be called the classics of this generation. What you're hearing now is trash.

Y: Yeah. What, what I don't understand, did they sing Irving Berlin songs? The strikers?

J: Well they used to sing "My Country Tis of Thee", the uh, and the "Star Spangle Banner", and the uh, in fact I think Irving Berlin's "God Bless America" should be the National Anthem, not the "Start Spangle Banner". The "Star Spangle Banner" was only a song that they, that they sang in the barrooms in England. And that should not represent the United States. I don't know who to write to, but I would like to have an argument over that.

Y: Do you know the name, Peter Carr. Peter C A R R?

J: Peter Carr?

Y: Did you hear, did you hear that name?

J: Well is there anything connected with him?

Y: He was the Commissioner of Public Safety at that time.

J: No, I wouldn't know that.

Y: And some people made some comments about him. And uh, I was wondering if you heard of his name.

J: No, I was so, I was only a child then, you know.

Y: Yeah, right. And uh (--)

J: As I said, I don't even remember that we ever had newspapers come to the house. And I was a reader, but I read a lot of books. I got interested in politics, and interested in world affairs when I got into high school. The first years I got into high school I had a teacher, and her name was Mill Collins. And she, I took up a course of uh, uh, wait a minute, what was it? Um, (--)

Y: Whatever, it doesn't matter, you can't remember.

J: Yeah, wait a minute. Well it had something to do with uh, commercial law, and uh, and things like that. And she, she taught us in such an interesting manner, that we were always spellbound in her class. The Haverhill High School. The Lawrence High School. Excuse me, erase that. The Lawrence High School I think gave us the most wonderful education that a group

of children ever had in those days. (Y: Umhm) We had Jimmy Horn for a Principal. He was extremely strict. He [unclear] with an iron rod, but he showed us that he loved us at the same time. He would not allow a boy to come to school dressed in, they had to have a shirt, a tie, and a collar. They had to be neat, because he said, I remember when he took us up in the hall, he said to us, "remember children, when you, if you dress well, if you, if you, if you dress like a man you'll act like a man, and you'll be a man." And he was very strict with us. There was wonderful morals. No girl was pregnant, and no boy ever went to uh, uh, was in, you know, was arrested or anything, had a bad record when I graduated with that class. And we all loved each other. It was a beautiful, beautiful, my high school days were the happiest days of my life. And it was, it was just wonderful. And it just wasn't easy. You know I'd come home from school and iron a batch of clothes for my mother, or I'd scrub a floor, or I'd wash the stairs. We all had to help each other, otherwise we couldn't get along.

Y: Yeah. How many sisters and brothers did you have?

J: We were six children. Six boys, three boys and three girls. (Y: You were the oldest?) I was the oldest, yeah. And then I had three brothers after me.

Y: The names were uh (--)

J: Charles. Charles, Harry, and Harold.

Y: Harold, and then two girls.

J: Two girls, yeah. Her name was Gertrude and Bertha.

Y: Bertha is the (--)

J: The baby. (Y: baby one) Yeah, she lives in Florida now.

Y: Uh huh. And uh, you said uh, I don't know if you said that, but I read in the newspaper, you said that the name "Bread and Roses" is a "stab in my heart". (A: It is) Why?

J: Because that was such a, a horrible period of existence in that, in those days. They were cold. You see the pictures. They were cold, they were hungry. They had no money. (Y: Umhm) And to me calling it "Bread and Roses" is glamorizing tragedy. I think it's an insult. I think it's stupid. And I, and I who have lived through it and seen it all, and I didn't suffer the way they suffered. Because thank God you know, we had, we weren't hungry and we weren't cold. But to call that strike "Bread and Roses"! It's an insult to humanity!

Y: What would you call this strike?

J: I would simply give it the historical name of the first, the first, the(--) I don't know how I would put it, but I would say that it was the 1912 strike, Lawrence Strike, which gave the country the first union. I could be put in a different manner, because I'm not very smart at that. (Y: You are smart) But I, that's what, it doesn't need a glamorous title. There was nothing

glamorous about the hardships and the heartaches, and the suffering that went on in that time. (Y: Umhm) You don't glamorize it with a word of "Bread and Roses". And I want to see that eliminated. And I do want Lawrence to get the credit. I love Lawrence as if I was born there. I don't know what it is like now, but in my day it was a wonderful city to live in. It was, really was wonderful. (Y: Yeah) And the people didn't have a lot of money, but we appreciated everything that we had. But I want to tell you something that I think that Lawrence should be given the recognition and the honor of saying that she was the first city in the United States to have a union. So that when they had a strike again, people didn't go hungry. They were taken care of by the union. I mean they, I think I had it in that piece there. It says (Y: Right, yeah) something about uh, (Y: Right, I understand, yeah) yeah. I mean didn't they agree with me? Didn't people agree with me? Do you like the name of "Bread and Roses"?

Unknown voice: Oh I believe they wanted, they wanted bread and they wanted the roses, just like the factory owners had. They had bread and they had roses.

J: Who had roses?

Unknown voice: The owners of the factory.

Y: [Chuckles]

J: Oh, but how can they compare themselves to it?

Y: Well they were all for (--)

J: They were millionaires!

Y: But that's what they wanted. They wanted bread and they wanted the roses.

J: Oh no. This woman, somebody said, somebody said to this woman, I read the article. They said, they were watching the parade after it was over and they said, oh, she tells, well you know, with the parade. And she said, so the woman turned around and said, "oh, now we can have bread and roses." Well you can't eat roses.

Y: Yeah.

J: Uh, do you think that name is going to last?

Y: Well we don't know. They think (--)

J: I want to accomplish that thing in my life. I want that name erraticated. I'm taking it very deeply because I saw the suffering. I saw what they lived through. I saw how everyone was suffering. And it was, and I remember, that was the year I graduated high school. And I didn't even know whether I was going to have a white dress to wear for the graduation. If my little brothers didn't go work in the bowling alley, they wouldn't, my mother was saving all of her money for food, not for clothes. They went to work, they were youngsters. If I was thirteen, my

brother was fifteen, and the other one I think was, my brother was eleven, and the other one was, was uh, going on ten. They went to work and worked till one or two in the morning so that I would have, so that my mother (--)

[Tape suddenly is turned off]

tape I side II ends